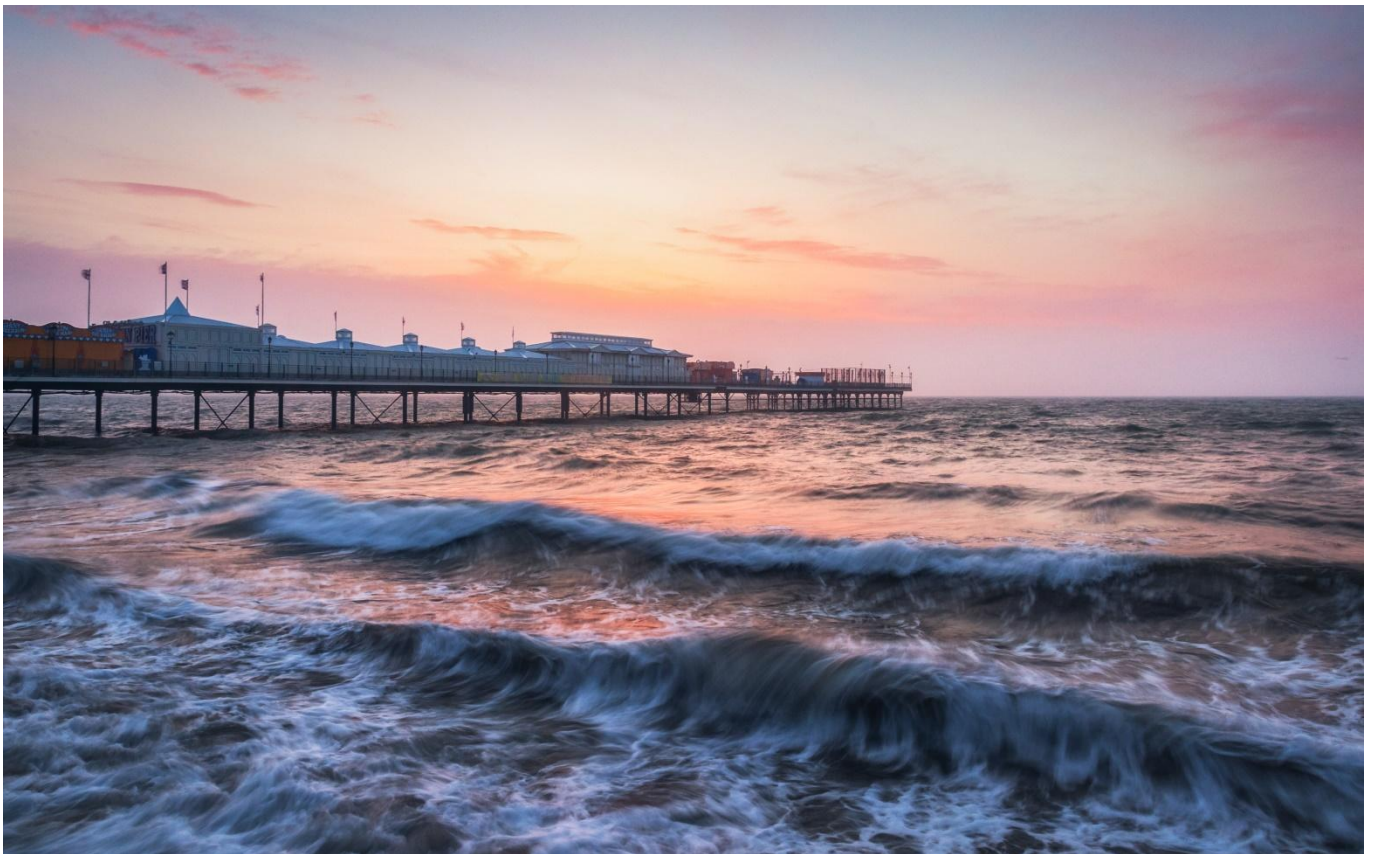




Press Release 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## Picture Perfect! Visit South Devon Reveals its 2019 Photo Competition Winners



This stunning image of Paignton Pier taken by Rich Walker has been revealed as the winner in Visit South Devon's 2019 South Devon Photo Competition.

Visit South Devon, the official tourism organisation for South Devon, has announced the winners of its 2019 South Devon Photo Competition which ran between April and September this year.

With an amazing 468 entries from holiday makers, locals, amateurs and professional photographers, this year has seen an impressive standard of photo entries submitted via email and Instagram.

The photographs had a principal brief - to capture the essence of South Devon and highlight the region at its best. From the 468 entries, Visit South Devon faced the difficult deed of selecting a final 25 images, which were then put out to public vote, which closed on the 30<sup>th</sup> September

The overall winner has been revealed as Rich Walker from Plymouth Devon and his image of Paignton Pier.

Rich's image will be used as the homepage image on the Visit South Devon website for the next 3 months, the site is expected to receive over 1.5 million sessions and 2.9 million page views during 2019.

Rich Walker says "I really am pleased to have won this competition, I wasn't expecting to win and I'd like to thank everyone who voted for me, it's a great honour. The photo was taken on a very early morning back in April; I've never seen the sea at Paignton as rough as it was that morning but it added some great drama to the shots I got. I entered a couple of photos to the competition and it seems the judges liked this one over the others so I'd like to thank them for that as well."

Anna Roach, Marketing Executive for Visit South Devon said: "We have been astounded by the superb standard of this year's entries, and it was a really tough task choosing the top 25 from such an eclectic array of photographs. We were inspired by Rich's image as it captures both the magic and mystery of the striking South Devon coastline that this part of the county has to offer."



lone Williams from West Yorkshire secured second place with her sun-kissed image of the Royal William Yard, Plymouth

The 2 runners up are lone Williams from West Yorkshire with her image of the Royal William Yard, Plymouth and Robert Davey from Plymouth, Devon with his image of Shaugh Prior on Dartmoor.

The runner up images will be used as the cover photos for the Visit South Devon Facebook and Twitter accounts, which have over 32,000 followers, until the end of the year.

As well as the top 3 images receiving online exposure, each photographer has won an individual prize:

1st Prize - Premier Holiday Caravan Break for up to 4 people in 2020 at Beverley Holidays in the English Riviera.

2nd Prize - A short break in a Glamping Pod at Ladram Bay Holiday Park for up to 4 people in 2020.

3rd Prize - A Family Day Pass to World of Country Life, which admits two adults and two children.



Third place was awarded to Robert Davey from Plymouth, Devon with his image of Shaugh Prior near Dartmoor

In addition all three winning photographers have the opportunity to write a guest blog post on South Devon and photography which will be hosted on the Visit South Devon website blog.

The full 25 finalists can be viewed by visiting: <https://www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk/visit-south-devon/photo-competition>

For more information on South Devon go to [www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk](http://www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk)

Ends.

To follow or share the story visit:

Visit South Devon @Visitsouthdevon #southdevon

Discover Dartmouth @discoverdartmouth #discoverdartmouth

Visit East Devon @visiteastdevon #visiteastdevon

Press Enquiries:

Dawn Bebe/Jane Pierce

Wordfluent

[hello@wordfluent.com](mailto:hello@wordfluent.com)

01752 262432

**Notes to Editors:**

Visit South Devon is a Community Interest Company that exists solely for the benefit of the local tourism community, helping raise the profile of the area as a destination for both national and international visitors. Covering the South Hams, Teignbridge, East Devon and Mid Devon, our main aim is to increase the number of day visits, short breaks, longer holidays and business trips to South Devon for the benefit of the local tourism economy.

Visit South Devon Competition Terms and Conditions can be viewed here:

<https://www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk/information/ts-and-cs/competition-terms-and-conditions>